

OUR PROBLEM WITH

AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY FIGURES

- ▶ Police/Border Patrol?
- ▶ Government?
- ▶ Rules?
- ▶ Parents?
- ▶ Religion?

THE CORE ISSUE IN

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

ISAIAH 14:12-14

- ▶ How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
- ▶ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
- ▶ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

SR 15.1

- ▶ There was contention among the angels. Lucifer and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God...**They rebelled against the authority of the Son.**

**REBELLION ALWAYS HAS
A COMPELLING PRETEXT**

SR 14.2

- ▶ He [Lucifer] told them that henceforth all the sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was at an end. For had not a ruler been appointed over them, to whom they from henceforth must yield servile honor? He stated to them that he had called them together to assure them that he no longer would submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs; that never would he again bow down to Christ; that he would take the honor upon himself which should have been conferred upon him, and would be the commander of all who would submit to follow him and obey his voice.

SR 17.1

- ▶ The great God could at once have hurled this archdeceiver from heaven; but this was not His purpose. He would give the rebellious an equal chance to measure strength and might with His own Son and His loyal angels. In this battle every angel would choose his own side and be manifested to all. It would not have been safe to suffer any who united with Satan in his rebellion to continue to occupy heaven. **They had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against the unchangeable law of God, and this is incurable.**

HISTORY REPEATS...

- ▶ Korah, Dathan, and Abiram [Num. 16:1-3]
 - ▶ “All the congregation are holy...you lift yourself up!” - Our rights! Equality! Discrimination! Injustice!
- ▶ I question whether genuine rebellion is ever curable.
Study in *Patriarchs and Prophets* the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram... [2SM 393.2]
- ▶ Num. 16:41. “But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.”

4T 211.1

- ▶ It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.

ONLY TWO OPTIONS:

REBEL OR SUBMIT

**“I’LL SUBMIT ONLY
IF I AGREE!”**

Human Race

THE ESSENCE OF THE GOSPEL IS

SURRENDER

IS JESUS OUR...

SAVIOR

IS JESUS OUR...

SAVIOR & LORD?

SOLA SCRIPTURA

- ▶ John 17:17. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
- ▶ Isaiah 8:20. To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
- ▶ John 14:15. If you love me, keep my commandments.

GC 595.1

- ▶ But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain **the Bible, and the Bible only**, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. **Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support.**

**DELEGATED
AUTHORITY**

PP 308.2 & 337.1

- ▶ God Himself, who has placed upon them [parents] a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children. **And he who rejects the rightful authority of his parents is rejecting the authority of God.** [PP 308.2]
- ▶ **Contempt for parental authority will soon lead to contempt for the authority of God.** Hence Satan's efforts to lessen the obligation of the fifth commandment. [PP 337.1]

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

- ▶ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- ▶ Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)
- ▶ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- ▶ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

ROMANS 13:1-3

- ▶ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
- ▶ Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.
- ▶ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

ROMANS 13:4-6

- ▶ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.
- ▶ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.
- ▶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.

AA 68.2

- ▶ We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation.

AA 163.2

- ▶ There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. God has invested His church with special authority and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising, for he who does this despises the voice of God.

MATTHEW 18:15-18

- ▶ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.
- ▶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
- ▶ And if he shall neglect to hear them, **tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**
- ▶ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

9T 260.1

- ▶ Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and to say what plans should be followed. **But when, in a General Conference, the judgment of the brethren assembled from all parts of the field is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered.** Never should a laborer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body.

9T 260.2

- ▶ God has ordained that the representatives of His church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, **shall have authority.**
- ▶ Jerusalem Council in Acts 15

**GOD LEADS "US" MORE
RELIABLY THAN HE LEADS
JUST "ME"**

SATAN'S MASTERPLAN:

IMPUGN THE DELEGATES

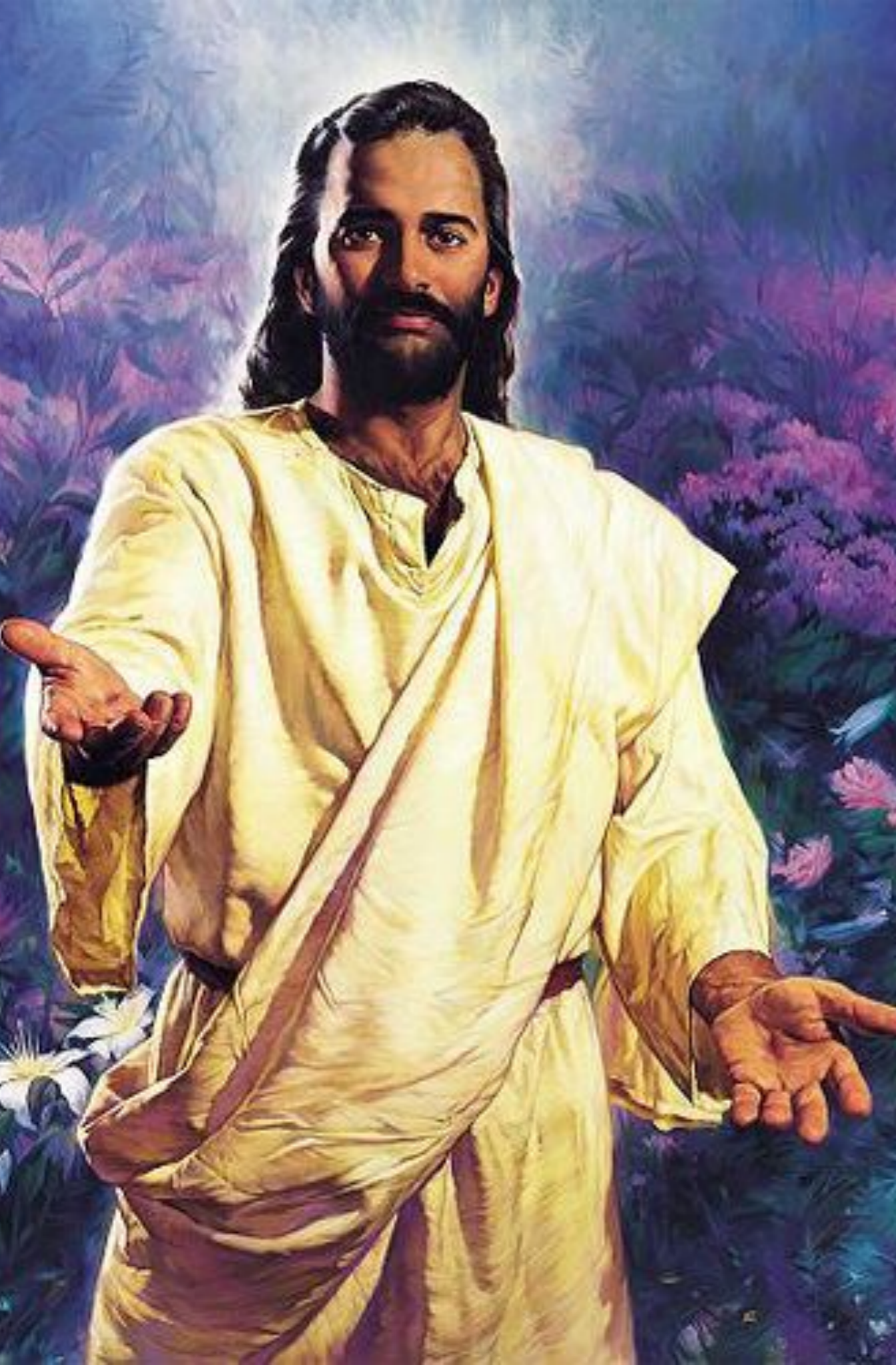
**TWO WRONGS DON'T
MAKE A RIGHT**

THE FIRST ANGEL

- ▶ Rev. 14:6. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
- ▶ Rev. 14:7. Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God**, and give glory to him; for **the hour of his judgment is come**: and **worship him** that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

THE KEY:

SHOW WHO GOD IS



**WHO'S YOUR
AUTHORITY?**